

REMARKS

Claims 78 to 95 are added, claims 1 to 12, 14, 16, 18 to 36, 38, 40, 42 to 58, 60, 62, and 64 to 77 are canceled without prejudice, and therefore claims 13, 15, 17, 37, 39, 41, 59, 61, 63 and 78 to 95 are now pending.

This Preliminary Amendment amends the specification to include the Related Application Information, including the U.S. parent application information, and the priority Japanese patent application information. Approval and entry are respectfully requested.

This Preliminary Amendment also cancels, without prejudice, claims 1 to 12, 14, 16, 18 to 36, 38, 40, 42 to 58, 60, 62, and 64 to 77, which were ultimately allowed (or canceled without prejudice as to certain claims, including 19, 43, and 65) in the parent case, U.S. Patent App. Ser. No. 09/577,511.

Claims 13, 17, 37, and 59 are amended without prejudice, so as to conform to the now canceled amended claims of the parent case, U.S. Pat. App. Ser. No. 09/577,511, and are allowable for essentially the reasons explained in that case. The minor amendments to claims 15, 17, 61 and 63 are essentially for conforming these claims as to their base claims. No new matter has been added, and the claims as presented are supported in the present application. Approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 78 to 95 do not add any new matter and are supported in the specification. Claims 78 to 83 depend from claim 13, and are therefore allowable for the same reasons as claim 13. Claims 84 to 89 depend from claim 37, and are therefore allowable for the same reasons as claim 37. Claims 90 to 95 depend from claim 59, and are therefore allowable for the same reasons as claim 59.

Accordingly, claims 13, 15, 17, 37, 39, 41, 59, 61, 63, and 78 to 95 are allowable.

U.S. Pat. App. Ser. No. 10/772,654
Att. Docket No. 10746/19A

It is asserted that the subject matter of the present application is new, non-obvious,
and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,
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